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Tuesday, Jan. 14 6-7:30 p.m.
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Tuesday, Jan. 14, 1997
Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!

35-year veteran of administration to lead local hospital

A 35-year veteran of hospital administration has been hired at Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home.

Darryl Wahler was introduced as the new administrator at a press conference Monday morning.

Wahler replaces Rod Burkett, who resigned to take another position.

Before coming to Hoopeston, Wahler served as president and chief executive officer at CGH Medical Center in Sterling, where he oversaw \$18 million modernization and resizing projects.

Wahler left CGH as part of downsizing at the facility, working as a consultant for the past year. The change in status was partially attributable to Wahler's proximity to retirement. However, "I like to work, I need to work," the 61-year-old said.

Whether his age will play a factor at Hoopeston Community depends on two factors. "A lot depends on my health and how well I do here," Wahler said. "I'd just as soon go out with my boots on."

Wahler received bachelor's and Master's degrees from

the University of Iowa.

Wahler was selected from a large field of candidates, said Russ Leigh, facility board chairman. "We were surprised by the number of candidates we got and the quality of candidates we got," Leigh said.

Wahler was selected because he "fit the facility," Leigh said. "We felt he would not only be a good administrator but would fit in well with the community. He's outgoing, friendly and easy to talk to."

For his part, Wahler said the decision to come to Hoopeston involved not only him, but his wife, as well. "She was invited to the second interview and they treated her like a person, not Mrs. Administrator," he said.

Wahler's plans for the facility include more team efforts and affiliation with a tertiary care facility, a larger hospital that provides services not offered locally. "Our top goal is keeping the hospital financially viable," he said.

He would also like to see more emphasis on health care rather than sick care and make upgrades to the

Township assessor Sollars resigns for change in careers

Grant Township assessor Teresa Sollars has resigned her position to make a career change.

Sollars, who has worked for the township for nearly 12 years, first as a caseworker, then as assessor, will resign effective Feb. 1 to become an insurance agent at the Country Companies agency in Hoopeston.

"I was ready for something different," said Sollars, whose letter of resignation was read at Monday's township trustees meeting.

Until Feb. 1, Sollars will work at the insurance agency and oversee operations at the assessor's

office. "I'm still responsible for everything until that point in time," she said.

Township trustees have 60 days to appoint an interim assessor to fill Sollars' term, which expires Dec. 31, said township Supervisor Carol Flint.

Sollars' replacement must be a certified assessor and must be a member of the Republican party, Flint said.

That replacement could come from Tuesday's Republican caucus. Deputy assessor Susie Sheppard and local businessman Bruce Burton are vying for the job.

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St. Anthony's Parish Hall

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January 14, 1997 6-7:30 p.m.

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CONNIE WILSON

Candidate for

Grant Township Trustee

at the **Republican Caucus**

Tuesday, Jan. 14 6-7:30 p.m.

St. Anthony's Parish Hall

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Seven candidates seek four seats on Grant Township board of trustees at GOP caucus

Editor's note: This is the final part in a series on tonight's Grant Township Republican caucus. Candidates for trustee are profiled

Four incumbents and three newcomers are vying for four seats on the Grant Township board of trustees in Tuesday's Republican caucus. Candidates include:

Incumbent Bill Boose, 55, who has served on the board for eight years. Boose, a farmer, ran because "there was a need for someone from the rural area," he said.

Boose sees the general assistance fund as the leading issue at the township level, especially as welfare changes are made. "It's going to be challenging to find the money," he said.

Newcomer James Eyrich, 22, a network technician for Hoopeston Area schools and University of Illinois student. "I'd like to be there when some of the changes are made when big government starts handing down programs to the smaller governments," he said. "Township is the logical choice."

Eyrich did not speculate on major issues facing the township. "Some people run for boards when they're angry about something," he said. "I'm not doing that."

Newcomer Dale Lithgow, 37, service manager for Birkey's in Williamsport, Ind. Lithgow's uncle, Stanley Lithgow, was a long-time trustee. "That sparked my interest," Lithgow said.

Lithgow doesn't believe there are any major issues currently facing the township. "We're lucky," he said. "We've got good people running it. We've got good roads, good bridges. I'd like to keep it that way."

Incumbent Jean Minick, 52, who is self-employed

and was appointed to the board in August 1995 to replace Carl Weber who resigned.

Minick's main objective is to watch how money is spent at the township level. "Trustees are watchdogs of the manner in which taxpayers' money is spent," she said. "I'm an active trustee who is dedicated to representing our township residents."

Incumbent Fred Ward, 88, who has served four terms as a trustee.

Ward sees continuity as the major issue facing the township. "We need people who will be there for more than one term," he said.

Incumbent Steve Willard, who was appointed in November to fill the unexpired term of Stanley Lithgow.

Willard was interested in the seat because "I felt there was a need for a rural aspect on the board. I hope to add stabilization to the board with a very conservative view."

Township government is one place where taxpayers can see how their money is spent, said the 48-year-old farmer. "You can see it everyday," he said. "You see the roads. You see aid to the poor right in your own country."

Newcomer Connie Wilson, 32, of rural Hoopeston, a pharmacy manager for Walgreens in Danville.

Weather



Increasing clouds today with a 60 percent chance of snow late. High in the mid 20s. Tonight, snow flurries. Low near -3. Tomorrow, morning snow. High near 26, low near 16.

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Wilson said she is running "to get involved with the community," and also because she has used township programs in her life. "That gives you a different perspective," she said.

If elected, she hopes to direct financing to where it is most needed. "There are so many different hands out

VOTE FOR

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candidate for

Grant Township Trustee

At the Republican Caucus

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6-7:30 p.m.

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